

Patrol Station the Donna M. Doss Border Patrol Station. This effort has been underway in Congress since 2020, and I am glad to see it has finally gotten over the finish line.

Our men and women in green put their lives on the line every single day to protect our country, and Americans everywhere are grateful.

CONGRATULATING GREGG POPOVICH

Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Gregg Popovich, head coach of the San Antonio Spurs, on becoming the winningest head coach in the history of the National Basketball Association.

On March 11, 2020, Pop earned his record-setting 1,336th win as head coach of the San Antonio Spurs when he defeated the Utah Jazz 104–102.

Pop has led the Spurs for over 26 seasons. Pop has won five NBA championships and was named head coach of the year three separate times.

I am honored to introduce my House resolution to congratulate Coach Popovich.

HONORING VETERANS BY EXPANDING CARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank every single veteran in New Mexico and nationwide for their service and sacrifices to our country.

But we cannot only thank our veterans for their service. We must honor their service by providing veterans the services they have earned.

In 2018, President Trump's VA began a process under the Asset Infrastructure Review Act to develop a list of recommendations to modernize and realign VA medical facilities.

Two weeks ago, the VA released its recommendations to the Infrastructure Review Commission and proposed the closure of four community-based outpatient clinics in rural areas of my district, closing the Gallup, Las Vegas, Raton, and Espanola clinics.

Combined, these four clinics serve thousands of veterans in predominantly Hispanic and Native American communities. Hispanics and Native Americans serve our country at higher rates. We are incredibly patriotic.

The VA wrongly assumes that these patriotic veterans can receive care from other community providers. They fail to understand that, in our rural areas, there aren't enough healthcare providers. The VA clearly doesn't seem to understand rural America.

The VA's own report listed veterans' statements that they have serious issues driving long distances for care and can't receive critical care and quality care in many areas due to limited community providers. While these were listed in the report, the VA may have listened, but I don't think they heard. But I do hear. I hear my vet-

erans and their stories. I hear their needs.

I heard Harry. Harry is a 75-year-old Cold War veteran who is also a cancer survivor. He is a survivor today because his clinic doctor, Dr. Gomez, ensured Harry received a biopsy, and he received it quickly. It caught his cancer and saved his life. The clinic doctor knew Harry. He knew his history and could respond quickly to Harry's concerns. Harry told me: "It was my pleasure serving this country, but the thing is that they need to take care of us."

Chris, another veteran I spoke to, told me: "Congress is quick to send us to war, but when it comes to healthcare, the government is severely lacking."

Shirley cried as she told me she believes she is alive today because she could drive herself to the clinic where she was immediately triaged, stabilized, and sent to a hospital for the chest pains she was experiencing. Her heart still beats today because of that clinic.

It breaks my heart that after all that these brave veterans have done for us, we are abandoning them just because they live in rural America.

I know how my communities struggle to receive care and the toll it takes on their loved ones to take a full day off work to drive them 6 hours just to draw labs or to have an annual checkup when it could be done in 25 minutes or less in town closer to where they live. Some veterans would be forced to drive those 6 hours round trip for care at the VA hospital in Albuquerque, which is itself overwhelmed, where veterans wait months for appointments.

Do you know what? The VA never spoke to the local Espanola VA clinic. I did. The Espanola clinic doctor told me that other local clinics are not specialized to the unique needs of veterans and don't understand the mental toll that military service has had on our veterans. He asked: "Don't veterans deserve more?"

Veterans do deserve more.

I have traveled to rural parts of my district to meet with veterans and hear what they need. The veterans I spoke to were upset, and rightly so. I am upset, too. They gave years of their lives in service to our country.

It is our Nation's solemn obligation to provide veterans the healthcare, education, housing, and honorable services they have earned, regardless of where they live.

This is about respect. This is about service. This is about saving lives.

I will not stop until we convince the VA and, when it gets to him, President Biden to reject these recommendations.

Instead of closing clinics, we should be expanding care and services to our veterans, meeting their needs wherever they happen to live—in cities, suburbs, or beautiful rural America and rural New Mexico.

That is how we truly thank our veterans.

CONGRATULATING U.S. MEN'S NATIONAL SOCCER TEAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the United States men's national soccer team on qualifying for the 2022 World Cup this November in Qatar.

Last night, the U.S. men's national soccer team completed their qualifying campaign in Costa Rica. It was a fitting ending to the team's qualifying run, filled with ups and downs and exciting matches, including big wins over Mexico, Panama, Jamaica, and Costa Rica.

After missing out on the 2018 World Cup, the United States team is headed back to the World Cup for the first time in 8 years.

From day one of the 2022 qualifying campaign, Coach Gregg Berhalter and the team set out on one mission and one goal, and that was to qualify. Bolstered by a golden generation of young and exciting talent, including players such as Christian Pulisic, Gio Reyna, Weston McKennie, Tyler Adams, Tim Weah, and many others, the U.S. put together a strong qualifying performance, including an undefeated record against the Mexican national team this past year, which is the first time that has been done in decades.

I am proud that Illinois is home to the United States Soccer Federation, which supports our men's and women's programs at all levels.

I know I join with many in Congress and across the country in congratulating the U.S. men's national soccer team. This qualification is a well-deserved result that is a testament to the hard work put in by all of U.S. soccer and the men's team.

The team has made their country proud, and I look forward to cheering them on at the World Cup in November.

A NEW DAY FOR TRANSIT IN NEW YORK CITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of representing two historic and iconic districts in the 13th Congressional District.

Harlem is the center, the mecca, of the African-American diaspora. It is the center of culture, of music, of literature for the Black community with the Apollo, the Schomburg, and other great historical institutions.

The other neighborhood that I represent, Mr. Speaker, is East Harlem, El Barrio, which is the launching pad for the Latino experience in New York City. It was the home, the cradle, for the Puerto Rican community that opened its doors to Dominicans, Ecuadorians, Colombians, Central and South Americans.